

ANNUAL DAY OF PRAYER for the UYGHUR

March 21st, 2010

The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

John 10:2-4

Intercessors are the watchmen. We come together to intercede and hold open the gate that the sheep might respond to the voice of the Shepherd and follow Him.

Intercession Needs

[1] Intercessors

Christ is the ultimate foundation of everything that God does, but the very next layer is committed and passionate prayer, and the intercessors who do it.

Please pray;

- that our Father would reveal and give us the depths of His heart for the Uyghurs as we pray
- that God would raise up as many committed intercessors as are needed to hold open the spiritual gate for the Uyghurs and see them reached with the Gospel.

[2] Believers

The best chance most Uyghurs have of ever encountering Christ is through the lives and witness of those who follow Him. *Please pray* for all of God's people - Uyghur & non-Uyghur - living amongst them;

- for favour with the government and religious authorities, and protection from illness, accident and other attacks from the powers and principalities
- to grow in purity, holiness and intimacy with God, with hearts that are wholly surrendered to Him and boldly responsive to the Holy Spirit
- love and unity in relationships - marriages, families, amongst believers
- that the lives of all believers in the region would reflect Jesus' love and respect for Uyghurs and their culture, and that in everything they would cause the name of Jesus to be honoured.

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[3] New Life

March 21st marks the first day of spring and the New Year for the Uyghur people.

Please pray for new spiritual birth for the Uyghur - an emergence from the desolate iciness of winter into the new life and soft warmth of spring;

- that God would release a fresh wave of dreams and visions where Jesus reveals Himself and calls them to follow Him
- that God would sovereignly connect those to whom He is speaking with His people and His Word
- that God would draw entire families into His Kingdom and establish them as godly communities
- workers for the coming harvest; that God would raise up and move into place all those He is calling to work for His purposes amongst the Uyghur
- for the existing leadership of the Uyghur church, particularly those in prison; patient endurance in their suffering, deepening intimacy with God and knowledge of His word, that they would be equipped with every good thing in order to fulfill their role in His desires for the Uyghur people
- that the Lord of the harvest would raise up workers from the coming harvest; gifted Uyghur apostles, evangelists, teachers, pastors, prophets - passionate for Jesus and committed to the authority of the Bible, who will lead their people into God's purposes for them.

[4] Resources and tools

Resources are lacking. *Please pray* for the development and release of resources & tools which accurately communicate Christ in a way that connects with the Uyghur culture.

Specifically;

- rapid and accurate completion of the Uyghur Bible translation; most of the Old Testament is yet to be translated
- evangelistic and discipleship tools which communicate the essential truths of Scripture, are relevant to Uyghur culture, easily reproducible, and effective in drawing Uyghurs into the Kingdom and establishing them in their faith.

UYGHUR FAST FACTS

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| Population: | Estimated 13-15 million in Xinjiang Province, China Estimated 1-3 million in Central Asia & Eastern China Immigrant populations in Turkey, Germany, Canada, USA & Australia |
| Followers of Jesus: | Estimated 300 |
| Belief Systems: | Folk Islam, Islam, Communism |
| Ethnicity: | Turkic |
| Language: | Uyghur; Turkic language with Arabic script (China) & Cyrillic script (former USSR) |
| Obstacles: | Fear: of jinn (spirits), government, illness Bitterness & resentment: political situation, marginalisation of their culture & language False idols: Uyghur culture, Islam, nationalism, prosperity, being able to live overseas |